



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2020

Zoom Meeting ID 976 6983 3965

<https://zoom.us/j/97669833965>

12:00 p.m.

Mission: The CAC exists to provide citizen input into the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County, the efficient and just treatment of defendants and offenders, the protection and healing of victims, and to work toward prevention of crime and the reduction of recidivism.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Tom Cordingley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and John Lytle read the mission statement.

Members present: Tom Cordingley (Chair), Carolyn Belling (Vice Chair), Marshall Gingery, Mike Mahoney, Moffie Funk, Jenifer Gursky, Abigail J. St. Lawrence, Teresa Charlton, Theresa Ortega, John Wilkinson, John Lytle, and James Reavis.

Members excused: Stephanie Ballenger-Brooks, Michael Kalous, Tina Eblin, Karen English and Dennis Taylor.

Others in attendance: Matt Hoffman, Kellie McBride, Jolene Jennings, Michael Johnson, Rhonda Champagne, Chris Cordingley, Samara Sant, and Rebecca Wall.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes August 14, 2020 meeting were approved as amended. Deb Halliday's summary notes will be attached to the August 2020 minutes.

3. Leadership and Task Force Appointments – Tom Cordingley

Tom Cordingley stated that he appointed John Wilkinson to Chair the Membership Task Force. This Task Force would review new applications.

Current leadership is on year two of a two-year term, no affirmation is necessary.

Appointment of Task Force chairs is tabled until after the CJS Strategic Plan has been developed.

4. CJS Department and Behavioral Health Update

James Reavis presented an overview of the CJS Strategic Planning sessions. Reavis stated that the group started with the current seven focus areas, highlighting what has been done well. The group then brainstormed future ideas including co-response to Mental Health crisis, support for specialty courts, system-wide diversion, improve cross-agency collaboration, independent evaluation against current standards, and legislative involvement. The group discussed how to prioritize these future ideas.

Kellie McBride stated that she is grateful for CAC, CJCC, community, and county participation. The next step is for Beki Brandborg, facilitator, to meet with CJS Staff. Once the plan has been finalized, it will be presented for CAC approval and recommendation for presentation to the CJCC for approval.

5. Overview of Facilitated Conversation – Jen Gursky

Jen Gursky presented an overview of the CAC's strategic planning session, facilitated by Deb Halliday. The group discussed the need to understand the role of the CAC in relation to CJCC and CJS, the initiatives that are priorities for the CAC and the community, and what action items are needed.

The CAC works as the feedback loop between CJCC, CJS, and the community.

Significant time was spent discussing the Department of Corrections and the impact on the County.

Four initiatives were discussed: continued stewardship of the system and evaluation against the promises made to the community, communication and education for the community, the need for increased diversity of membership, and advocacy.

The CAC will hold off on their second facilitated session until the CJS Strategic Plan has been formalized. The CAC will then develop a working plan.

Tom Cordingley is drafting a letter for Your Times to celebrate CAC work and successes.

6. A Look at Inseparable – Chris Cordingley

Tom Cordingley introduced Chris Cordingley.

Christ Cordingley presented an overview of Inseparable, a mental health advocacy organization that he is a co-founder of. Inseparable is currently focused on federal legislation, to create a county where mental health is more than an afterthought and to empower Americans to care for one another by demanding and winning mental health policy that cares for all.

Inseparable's framework for excellence in mental health care includes vital community conditions (meaningful work, housing, etc.), barriers to treatment (cost of care, insurance parity, social stigma, etc.), aligning policy with best practices (in education, corrections, medicine), and re-entry planning.

7. Handle with Care Movement – Moffie Funk

Moffie Funk stated that the stand-alone bill for Handle with Care has moved out of committee. The bill encourages, but does not mandate, Handle with Care. Funk requested that CAC members meet with Helena Chief of Police Hagen and other leaders to encourage early adoption of Handle with Care.

Abigail St. Lawrence volunteered to assist with helping to share this message. Marshall Gingery suggested that CAC members share information with other organizations they are part of (Kiwanis, Lions, Hometown Helena, etc.).

8. Review of Action Items for CJCC Meeting Agenda

None

9. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Samara Sant presented an overview of 406 Back the Blue, a non-partisan, non-political group showing support for law-enforcement and first-responders.

Marshall Gingery suggested that official notification be created and sent to the public to inform them of the status of the detention center and whether the standards set in place were met.

10. Next Meeting: October 9, 2020

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Minutes approved October 9, 2020.